(v) Constructing new Bund—Left Forwarded Bund to serve as a forward line of defence connecting Road No. 59 (Wazirabad Road) with Alipur Bund of U.P.)

(vi) Providing a new Bund—Right Marginal Embankment to protect villages of Madanpur Khaddar, Melar Bund and Jaitpur.

(vii) Constructing spurs and studs on both sides of river Yamuna to streamline flow and maintain course of river.

(viii) Increasing capacity of Najafgarh drain from Dhansa regulator to Bharat Nagar bridge from 3000 cusecs to 8000 cusecs and 10000 cusecs d/s Bharat Nagar bridge upto outfall into river Yamuna which is nearing completion.

Problem of excess Fluoride in drinking water in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

990. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for relief to the rural areas of Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna Districts of Andhra Pradesh, which are effected by high fluoride content in drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Under the National Drinking Water Mission the problem of excess fluoride in drinking water is tackled under the submission on control of fluorosis. Activities under this submission are fully financed by the Central Government.

At present there is no specific proposal received from the State Government for schemes relating to control of excess fluoride in affected villages. It is, however, proposed to set up 35 defluoridation plants in Andhra Pradesh. This includes 8 plants for Prakasam and 2 for Krishna Districts.

Replacement of food subsidy with Food Stamps

991. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the present food subsidies with food stamps in the context of the experience of other countries in the matter;

(b) if so by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the merits and demerits of both the systems?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to replace the present food subsidy with food stamps.

Merger of A.P. Steel Plant Ltd., Paloncha, with Sponge Iron India Ltd.

992. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge Andhra Pradesh Steels Plant Ltd., Paloncha, Andhra Pradesh with Sponge Iron India Ltd.;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in the matter from one of the joint secretaries of All India Congress Committee; and

(c) what is Government's view on such merger?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) No, Sir. However, a representation in this matter has been received from Secretary, Distt. Congress Committee, Khammam (A.P.).

(c) Merger of A. P. Steels with Sponge Iron India Limited would not help to